



ST. PAUL'S

Est 1855

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship, Love, Live the Message

WORSHIP BULLETIN:
MARCH 30, 2025 **8:45 AM**
Holy Eucharist Rite II Prayer A

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ENTRANCE HYMN:

*The following is sung.
Please refer to your hymnal*

(H 411) O Bless the Lord, My Soul

OPENING ACCLAMATION: BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures for ever

COLLECT FOR PURITY: BCP p. 355

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRISAGION:

*The following is sung.
Please refer to your hymnal*

(S 102) Holy God



COLLECT OF THE DAY: BCP p. 357

Remain seated.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The people sit.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM:**Psalm 32***Remain seated.*

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,*

and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,*

and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,*

because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;*

my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,*

and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."*

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;*

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;

you preserve me from trouble;*

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;*

I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;*

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;*

but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;*

shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*Remain seated.*

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal

(H 641) Lord Jesus, Think on Me



GOSPEL:**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32***All stand.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to

celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

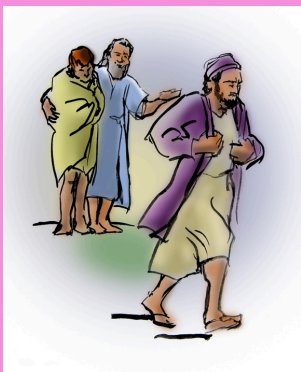
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Annie Mertz



THE CREED:**BCP p. 358***All stand.*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*All remain standing***CONFESSION OF SIN****BCP p. 359***The Deacon or Celebrant says:*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.**Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE:**BCP p. 360***All stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & TRANSITIONS:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin anew. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE BCP p. 376

OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung.

(WLP #826) Stay With Me

Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray watch and pray.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SURSUM CORDA: BCP p.361

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE:

BCP p. 361

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS:

Celebrant and people

Please refer to your hymnal

(S 124) Holy, Holy, Holy

BCP p. 362

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

...Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

BCP p. 370

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP p.363

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

AGNUS DEI:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal

(S 163) Lamb of God

INVITATION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal.

(H 209) We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal

(H 508) Breathe on Me, Breath of God

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

BCP p.366

The Celebrant blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal

(H 344) Lord, Dismiss Us With thy Blessing

DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



- * 2025 Zoom Lenten Series
The Lost Art of Kindness
- * Holy Week Schedule
- * Easter Lily Dedications

The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon.
E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org Phone: (707) 745-0307

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST:



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(707) 745-0307 120 E J St. Benicia, CA

Please e-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org for updates or additions

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert
Virginia & Gary Cady
Mark Park
Judith Mooney
Lolli Hilton



WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES

Major Russ Morris, U.S. Air Force Reserves
SFC Mike Moverley, 1st Battalion 143rd Field Artillery, U.S. Army
Warrant Officer Brandon Niemann, U.S. Army
Airman Andrew Severa, U.S. Air Force
SA Michelle Severa, PA, Air National Guard
Staff SGT Jake Sackett, U.S. Air Force
Major Xacasia Evans-Walp, U.S. Army

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/2 Jeanne Brown
4/5 Paul Metzker

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Georgene Keeler
The Venerable Dorothy Jones,
Archdeacon Emeritus,
Diocese of California

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Deacon	The Rev. Beth Gaines	
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma
Lector	Debi Hall	Marjorie Lowry
Intercessor	Jim Brown	Kim Rodekoehr
LEM	Jim Brown	Kim Rodekoehr & Marjorie Lowry
Healing Prayers		
Ushers	Mittie & Fred Railsback	Jeff Jarvis & Steve Rodekoehr
Altar Guild	Robin Silver & Kim Rodekoehr	
Flower Guild	Linda Tremain	
Office Angels		
Verger	Jorge Pena	

PARISH LEADERSHIP

CLERGY:

The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector
The Rev. Beth Gaines, Deacon
The Rev. Canon Mary Goshert, Associate Priest
The Rev. Pamela Higgins, Associate Priest
The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest

STAFF:

Dr. Matthew Welch, Traditional Music Director
Cameron De Palma, Contemporary Music Director
Eric Foster, Communications Director
Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator
Tim Markley, Archivist

VESTRY:

Lisa Pena, Senior Warden
Ed Curtis, Junior Warden
Jill Morris, Ann Lindsay, Donna Marshall, Gerri MacGregor, Jim Peterson, Robert Vallejos, Kathryn Gojack



NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

When you enter a St. Paul's Episcopal Church service or event, you enter an area where photography, audio, live streaming, and video recording may occur.

CALENDAR

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
8:45 am +Communion
10 am Coffee Hour (P)
10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U)
10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
11 am +Communion
12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
8 pm AA (P)



MONDAY: 3/31

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
8 pm AA Meeting (P)

TUESDAY: 4/1

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
12 pm Sustainable Solano (K)
7 pm +GGSOC Practice

WEDNESDAY: 4/2

7am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
10 am +Communion
11 am Bible Study (P)
4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
7 pm 2025 Zoom Lenten Series

THURSDAY: 4/3

7am AA Meeting (P)
7:30 am Coffee w/
Rev. Annie
9 am +Morning Prayer
5 pm Worship Committee Meeting (U)
6 pm +Music Practice

FRIDAY: 4/4

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
7 pm NA Meeting (P)

SATURDAY: 4/5

7 am AA Meeting (U)
7 am Men's Meeting (R)

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
8:45 am +Communion
10 am Coffee Hour (P)
10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U)
10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
11 am +Communion
12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
4 pm Meditation (P)
8 pm AA (P)



KEY

+ = CHURCH
P = PARISH HALL
U = UNDERCROFT
R = RECTORY
K = KITCHEN